
The Humble
P E T I T I O N
O F T H E
P R E T E N D E R,

To His HIGHNESS the
D U K E of *Orleans*, &c.

Price Four Pence.

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The Humble
PETITION
OF THE
PRETENDER,

TO HIS HIGHNESS the
DUKE of Orleans,

*To suffer him to put in Bail to
his Arrest.*

L O N D O N,

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To his HIGHNESS the
D U K E of *Orleans,*

*To suffer him to put in Bail to
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May it please your Royal Highness,

YOUR Petitioner *James Stuart,*
commonly called the *Pretender,* alias *Perkin,* alias *Chevalier de St. George,* alias *Impostor,* by
some, if not by all of which Names

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he presumes he may be known to your *Royal Highness*, most humbly prayeth ;

THAT in your great Clemency and princely Wisdom you will take his present Case into your most serious Consideration, and that the rather because he has good Reason to believe that hardly any one thinks *seriously* of your said *Petitioner* at present ; He being so unhappy as to have fallen into the greatest Disgrace and utmost Contempt of all sober and sensible Persons, and in particular to lye under the Displeasure of your *Royal Highness*, for whom he has so deep a Respect, and whose Favour he the said *Petitioner* would purchase at any Rate, and run any Hazard, but that of his *own Life*, which he has a very tender regard for, to obtain.

May

May it therefore please your *Royal Highness* only to give him leave to state his Case before you, and humbly offer some Reasons which may move your *Highness*, to suffer him to put in *Bail* to the *Arrest*, under which you have at present laid your unhappy Petitioner. He does not presume that your *Highness* will take his own Word for his *Appearance*, he having so often promised *that* to his Friends in *England*, and never yet kept it, and now lying under an actual Obligation and Promise to his Friends in *Scotland* to do the same. In these unlucky Circumstances, your Petitioner is not so arrogant, he says, as to think your *Highness* will take his Word as a sufficient Security; neither will he offer his *Honour* as any greater Validity, that being, he Confesses, sub-
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ject to as many Doubts and Suspicions, if not more, than his verbal Promise, it being pawn'd and engag'd to several Persons, *Men, Women, and Children*, in the Kingdom of *Great Britain*, whom he has not the Honour to be known to, or once to have seen, but who have taken it as currently as a *Bank Bill* for ready *Mony*, for which he is oblig'd to them; but more particularly, he cannot offer his *said Honour* to your *Highness's* Acceptance, because it is doubly *Mortgag'd* to the *Duke of Lorrain*, for *Bed, and Board, Meat, Drink, Washing, and Lodging*, which your *Highness* knows the said *Duke* has trusted him for, during a considerable space of Time, and for the Payment of which your *Petitioner's said Honour* stands engag'd. He is almost asham'd to mention to your
High-

Highbness that the said *Honour* of his is also pawn'd to a great many *Ladies*, *Maids of Honour*, small *Countesses*, and *Laundresses*; all and several of which have accepted it instead of *Louis d'Or's*, *Pieces of Eight*, besides innumerable Promises of Preferments when it should be in his Power to give it them.

For these Reasons it is, that I am justly sensible that neither my *Word* nor my *Honour* can be of any Consequence or Value with your *Royal Highness*, and therefore I now shall offer a far more unexceptionable Security. But first, I desire that your *Highbness* would consider that I am now at a *great distance* from my *Friends*, and therefore cannot immediately have those *Vouchers* for me which are convenient and necessary. However, I shall with all Humility

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submit it to your princely Wisdom, whether you will please to accept of such Persons as I shall name in my Petition; and I do assure you that I shall mention none, but such whose Integrity and Sufficiency are known to the *whole World*, as well as to your Petitioner.

I do then in the first place offer as *Bail* for my *Appearance*, R----t E---l of Ox---d, a Person of so unsported a *Faith*, and so sincere *Honesty*, and of so entire an *Attachment* to your *Royal Uncle*, that I can hardly make any Doubt with myself, but that your *Highness* will think I have chosen one of the most unexceptionable Persons in the whole World. His Character is so well known, that I need only say, that it is the same *Person* who is so much bless'd and applauded all over the
Empire

Empire for preserving the *Grand Alliance* so inviolably, whose Health is drank all over the *United Provinces* for the steady Adherence to the *Barrier Treaty*, and whom all the *Portuguese Poets* have celebrated in every Song that has been made since the late *Treaty of Peace*. In his own Country his *Credit* has been so very Great, that I have heard from substantial Witnesses that he has been *bail'd* by *ten Attorneys* in one Day for as many *Actions*, that he has had the Privilege of riding in his Coach unmolested, or sleeping quietly at Home, when he was as Insolvent as the most desperate Debtor in the *Hotel de ———*. I am not ignorant indeed, that the said Noble Person is at present in a sort of a *Prison* for some petty Trifles, and Advances towards my Interest in the Kingdom

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of *Great Britain*; yet I am positive that if your *Highness* would only be so good as to obtain his Enlargement from *King GEORGE*, he would repair hither immediately, and offer to be bound Body for Body, or in any other Engagement which you should think fit, to be responsible for your *Petitioner's* Appearance.

But if your *Highness* should think that there are some Difficulties which cannot so easily be got over in respect of the Confinement of this very worthy Person; It is the humble Desire of your *Petitioner* that you would be pleas'd to accept of *One* who does not lye under these Necessities; *One*, who, I may say, is *entirely his own Master*, and whose great Respect to your *Petitioner* will make him readily comply with any thing you shall think fit to demand.

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This Noble Person is the *Earl* of *Marr*, a Man very justly famous for the Tenderneſs of his Conſcience in regard to *Oaths* and *Promiſes*, of which he has lately given the World the moſt convincing Demonſtration. He is a Man of the nicest *Honour*, and tho' that alone were an Argument for your *Highneſs's* Acceptance, he ſhall engage ſeveral Thouſands more in the ſame Obligation, who have been contented to go without *Shirts* and *Shoes* theſe three Months, out of Reſpect to the ſaid *Earl's* Integrity. Tho' I cannot ſay that he will come hither upon the Spot as your *Petitioner's* *Bail*, yet I know that if any *Oath*, conceiv'd in ſuch ſolemn, ſtrong, and obligatory Terms as would ſtartle a *Jefuit*, were ſent to him by a *Courier*, he would take it without Scruple; and ſtake his
Life

Life and Soul for the Performance of it upon your Petitioner's Account. The only Objection that can be against the said *Earl* (for his Sincerity is unquestionable) is his Distance from your *Highness's* Dominions; which if you are pleas'd to insist upon, as a Difficulty of Consequence, I humbly wave him, and offer two others against whom that Objection cannot be made.

May it please your *Highness* therefore to accept of *James Buttler*, and *Henry St. John*, who are at this Time in your *Highness's* Territories, Persons of approved Merit, and the most severe Morality. These Gentlemen have been a long time the Favourites of *France*, and it may be said, without any Reflection, that few People have merited more than they from the Hands of this Kingdom; they
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serv'd it, tho' Strangers, with a Fidelity that might have become a Native, and indeed have by this time so little Share in their own Country that they may justly be reckoned *Frenchmen*. These Gentlemen are not in the Circumstances of the Persons I before offer'd, they are ready, and at Hand, your *Highness* may command them at all Times, and there can be no Fear of their retreating to any other Quarter. Their distinguish'd good Qualities and great Talents have so much rais'd the Envy of all other Nations, that their Persons would be unsafe in any other Country; beside, that the Reputation of these two worthy Gentlemen has not suffer'd from any private Immoralities of Domestick Life, or any Actions of publick Scandal; for after a strict Examination into their Conduct at Home,

Home, it only appears that they had form'd a Design to serve your Petitioner in the Qualities both of *Pimps* and *States-men*.

Lastly; your said *Petitioner* farther offers in his Behalf some Matters relating to himself, by which it will appear how much he has been subservient to the Measures of this Kingdom, and what grateful Returns he has made for the many Favours bestow'd upon him by your late *Royal Uncle*.

It is not unknown to your *Highness* that your *Petitioner* came into the Dominions of *France* when he was an Infant, without one Farthing of Mony, and nothing but the Blessing of the *Pope* to Support him; the poor Relief of which being soon discover'd by the Immortal *King*, he let him eat of his Bread, and supplied the defect

defect of *Infallibility* with a more certain Subsistence. It was not then known, as your *Petitioner* has heard, and it still continues a Secret, who your *Petitioner* was, who was his *Father* and *Mother*, and how he came into the World, but that he *is* in it, he is at present to his great Sorrow very sensible. That he was born in the *City* of *London* or *Westminster* seems very probable; but it is past doubt, wherever he was *born*, that he was *brought* to *Bed* at *St. James's*, and continu'd in *England* 'till he was brought a begging into the Kingdom of *France*. Now your *Petitioner* does protest from the bottom of his Soul that he had no manner of Design to be *Born*, that it was not in his Power to hinder it, and whether it was a *King* or a *Bricklayer* that was his Father, he could not help being the *Son* of some-body. That when he

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began to taste the Pleasure of Existence he took up a Resolution to be as merry as the best of them all, and that he was encourag'd thereto by some Persons not unknown to your *Highness*, but at the same time he was so very grateful to his great Benefactor as to let his *Education* be entirely conformable to the Rules he prescrib'd. And accordingly he soon conceiv'd a Mortal Antipathy and Hatred to all *Protestants*; that he thought of nothing but *Fires, Racks, and Persecutions* from his Childhood, and stood resolv'd, whenever it was in his Power, to extirpate all Mankind that would not pay an implicit Obedience to the *See of Rome*, and own both the Supremacy and Infallibility of the *Pope*. He confesses indeed, that for a few late Years he has found it very convenient for his Affairs to dissemble his *Religion*, and

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to profess a sort of Neutrality between *Popery* and *Protestanism*, and that he has obtain'd a private Dispensation from the *Holy Father* for this Practice. Without this Reserve it had been impossible for him to have made so considerable Advances in *Great Britain*, as he did for four Years together; and he owns to your *Highness*, that this was the Advice of his best Friends in that *Kingdom* (who really were of no Religion) to show an Indifference to *Popery*, which the easie Credulity of some People would soon construe into a *Conversion*, which he in his Heart utterly abhors. All this he did in due Obedience to the Politics of a certain *Court*, who had a plain Interest in the Management of your *Petitioner*; for, as to his own Part, he must confess that he never had any farther Views, than to do as he was taught, and he pre-

fumes to believe that your *Highness* your self does not take him for a great *Politician*.

But farther; your Petitioner begs Leave to go a little backward in his Conduct, to set forth his entire Resignation to the Conduct of the former Ministers of *France*. After the decease of your *Petitioner's* suppos'd *Father*, he suffer'd himself to be proclaim'd *King of England at Paris*, and made use of that *Title* for many Years to promote the Interest of this *Kingdom*, and allowed some *Irish* Troops to be paid with *French Money* in his Name; which he conceives is something Meritorious, and hopes it may abate a little of your *Highness's* Displeasure. Moreover, he speaks it not without Terrour of Heart, that during the late *Wars*, he was once prevail'd upon to take the *Field*, and saw with his own Eyes the *French*
Army

Army beaten by the *Duke of Marlborough*; your *Petitioner* owns indeed that he was not (as he has been told since) in any Danger of losing his Life in the unfortunate Battel, but at that time he really thought that he was, and therefore hopes that your *Highness* will consider the Case as he did himself, and allow it as a Piece of Service to the late *King*, in hazarding his Life for his Cause.

Your *Petitioner* assures your *Highness*, that you need not fear any thing from him; for that he has consulted his own Heart with the greatest Impartiality, and tho' he finds a great many bloody Purposes there, yet he can safely say that he never *dar'd* to execute any of them himself; and tho' he has *Massacred* above half a Nation in his own Mind, yet he believes that he should fall into Fits at the sight of a *Whig Lady's Bodkin*. It is
true

true that he has read of a great deal of Blood-shed upon his Account, but he never had the Heart to see any of it spilt as yet; tho' he does not know how fast *Courage* might come upon him, if once he had *Power* enough in his Hands to exercise it without Fear of suffering for it, as his supposed *Father* did before him. But your *Highness* well knows, that is no Circumstance of his present Condition, he being now both without *Power*, or *Spirit* to attempt any thing of that kind, and therefore you may let a Creature of his Tameness loose, without any Reflection upon your own Prudence, or any ill Consequences to your *Highness's* Friends.

Your *Petitioner* would not willingly detain your *Highness* too long; but he cannot forbear mentioning, before he concludes, that he has been so long a Dependant upon the Court of
France,

France, that he may be look'd upon as a sort of a *Rent-Charge* upon it, charged upon the said Court by the late King *Lewis* of most *Christian Memory*, and which he in all Humility hopes his Successors will still continue. And he cannot forbear thinking it would be a sort of Cruelty to turn him off in this Extremity ; for Mr. *Prior*, the late *Plenipotentiary*, has taught him the following Maxim, which he thinks very applicable to his Case, and therefore begs Leave to quote the Authority of that consummate *States-man*.

No Family that takes a Whelp,
 When first he laps, and scarce can yelp,
 Neglects, or turns him out of Gate,
 When he's grown up to Dog's Estate.
 Nor Parish, if they once adopt
 The spurious Bears the Strolers dropt,
 Leave 'em when grown up lusty Fellows
 To the wide World, that is, the Gallows.

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There is something so shocking to the Constitution of your *Petitioner* in the last Similitude, that he is not able to proceed any farther——But he most humbly beseeches your *Highness* to take the Premises into your Consideration, and extend your Goodness so far as to accept of the *Bail* he offers, or to discharge him for the Reasons he has alledg'd in his Petition; and your *Petitioner*, and Mr. *Lesley*, and the Lord *Mar*, and several other *Popish* and *Protestant*, shall ever pray, &c.

F I N I S.